REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Ruane et al. and Imai et al.

The present invention relates to a network system involving processes identified as parent and child, which correspond to the first and second states set forth in the claims. The parent process manages information like addresses and features for all of the other processes in the network. A child process is subject to management by the corresponding parent process with respect to the address, features and the like. The states of the parent and child process may change at any time depending upon a message exchange with other processes. In the beginning all processes are identified as parent process. The parent process stores information that it is a parent process, and the child process stores information that it is a child process. The child process also stores information concerning its parent process. On the other hand, the parent process stores all child processes that store the information of itself. Upon the occurrence of certain conditions, such as errors or failure to communicate, child processors are dropped from the network. On the other hand, when additional processes are added, a decision is made as to whether that new process should be a child process or should take over being the parent process. There is only one parent process.

13

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Ruane et al. relates to a method for determining whether two pieces of equipment connected to a network are directly connected by a single network cable. Various requests are sent out and the responses received to determine what manner of equipment and the capabilities of that equipment are connected to the network. Contrary to the examiner's assertion, the communicating network equipment drivers do not change states depending upon the response. They simply control the devices connected to the network in a different fashion.

Imai et al. is cited for its showing of a system for adding identifying portions to request messages. Identification information is stored in a server in a specialized storage area that is not destroyed if a defect takes place in the network. If a defect does take place in the active server a backup server is provided to take over the process of the active server upon accessing the stored identification information.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Ruane et al. nor Imai et al., alone or in combination, show or suggest a network system in which a first-state process portion stores a second-state process portion that stores the first-state process portion also. Also, the second-state process portion stores only the first-state process portion, and in such a system there is only one first-state process portion.

14

It is respectfully submitted that neither Ruane et al. nor Imai et al. show or suggest any such network system with the first-state process portion and second-state process portion storing information relative to each other, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a network system comprising a parent process portion and a plurality of child process portions, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

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